

Appl. No. : 09/380,534
Filed : September 1, 1999

PENDING CLAIMS

1. - 71. (Cancelled)

72. (Previously added) A method of obtaining a sustained CTL response in a mammal, which method comprises:

delivering an antigen directly to a lymph node or a lymph vessel of the mammal at a level sufficient to induce a CTL response in the mammal; and

maintaining the antigen in the mammal's lymphatic system over time sufficient to sustain the CTL response.

73. (Previously added) The method of Claim 72, wherein the antigen is provided in the form of a polypeptide.

74. (Previously added) The method of Claim 72, wherein the antigen is provided as a component of a microorganism.

75. (Previously added) The method of Claim 72, wherein the antigen is provided in the form of a nucleic acid encoding the antigen.

76. (Previously added) The method of Claim 75, wherein the nucleic acid encoding the antigen comprises a plasmid, a vector, or a recombinant viral vector.

77. (Previously added) The method of Claim 72, wherein the antigen is maintained by sustained, delivery of the antigen.

78. (Previously added) The method of Claim 72, wherein the antigen is a diseased matched antigen.

79. (Previously added) A method of obtaining a sustained CTL response in a mammal, which method comprises:

selecting an antigen suitable for a sustained CTL response in the mammal;

delivering the antigen to a lymphatic system of the mammal at a level sufficient to induce a CTL response in the mammal;

causing sustained exposure of the antigen to the mammal's lymphatic system;

obtaining a sustained CTL response in the mammal; and

detecting the sustained CTL response in the mammal.

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80. (Previously added) The method of Claim 79, wherein the detection step comprises an assay selected from the group consisting of a cytokine assay, a chromium release assay, an antiviral protection assay, virus titer, an immunofluorescence assay, a tumor growth inhibition assay, tumor size reduction, a CTL assay, inhibition of tumor metastasis, increase in life expectancy, infectious disease recovery, and observation of the health of the mammal.

81. (Previously added) The method of Claim 79, wherein the delivery step further comprises delivering a cytokine, adjuvant, or potentiator.

82. (Previously added) A method of obtaining a sustained CTL response in a mammal, which method comprises:

selecting an antigen that is capable of inducing CTL in a mammal;

delivering the antigen to the mammal at a level sufficient to induce a CTL response in the mammal, wherein the antigen is delivered to an area of high lymphatic drainage in the mammal; and

maintaining the antigen in the mammal's lymphatic system sufficient to sustain the CTL response for a period of time that is substantially co-extensive with the desired duration of the CTL response.

83. (Previously added) A method of obtaining a sustained CTL response in a mammal, which method comprises:

delivering an antigen to a lymphatic system of the mammal at a level sufficient to induce a CTL response in the mammal;

causing sustained exposure of the antigen to the mammal's lymphatic system;

obtaining a sustained CTL response in the mammal; and

detecting the sustained CTL response in the mammal.

84. (Previously added) The method of Claim 83, wherein the detection step comprises an assay selected from the group consisting of a cytokine assay, a chromium release assay, an antiviral protection assay, viral titer, an immunofluorescence assay, a tumor growth inhibition assay, tumor size reduction, a CTL assay, inhibition of tumor metastasis, increase in life expectancy, infectious disease recovery, and observation of the health of the mammal.

85. (Previously added) The method of Claim 83, wherein the antigen is a patient-matched antigen.

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86. (Previously added) The method of Claim 83, wherein causing sustained exposure of the antigen to the mammal's lymphatic system comprises repeated exposure of the antigen to the mammal's lymphatic system.

87. (Previously added) A method of obtaining a sustained CTL response in a mammal, which method comprises:

delivering an antigen in an acellular composition directly to an area of high lymphatic drainage in the mammal at a level sufficient to induce a CTL response in the mammal; and

maintaining the antigen in the mammal's lymphatic system over time sufficient to sustain the CTL response.

88. (Previously added) The method of Claim 87, wherein the antigen in the acellular composition is provided in the form of a nucleic acid encoding a polypeptide antigen.

89. (Previously added) The method of Claim 87, wherein the antigen is delivered as a bolus in a single dose, and wherein the single dose is sufficient to maintain the antigen in the mammal's lymphatic system over time sufficient to sustain the CTL response.

90. (Previously added) The method of Claim 87, wherein the sustained CTL response is detectable by a CTL assay.

91. (Previously added) The method of Claim 87, further comprising selecting an antigen in an acellular composition for delivery that is suitable for a sustained CTL response.